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Kim Blum
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Kim Blum
Signature

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: MICHALUK)	Examiner:	Lois L. Zheng
)		
Application Number: 10/042,549)	Group Art Unit:	1742
)		
Filed: January 9, 2002)	Confirmation No.:	5470
)		
Docket No.: CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01))		

For: TANTALUM AND NIOBIUM BILLETS AND METHODS OF PRODUCING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

June 9, 2006

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO/SB/08. Pursuant to the current United States Patent and Trademark Office rules, no copies of U.S. Patents/Patent Application Publications are provided.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted with a Request for Continued Examination.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. *See* 37 CFR 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO/SB/08 be made of record therein and appear

Information Disclosure Statement
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/042,549

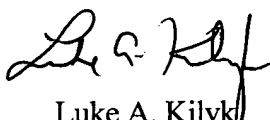
on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that no better art exists and does not constitute an admission that each or all of the listed documents are material or constitute "prior art." If the Examiner applies any of the documents as prior art against any claim in this application and applicant determines that the cited documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, applicant reserves the right to present to the office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicant further reserves the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

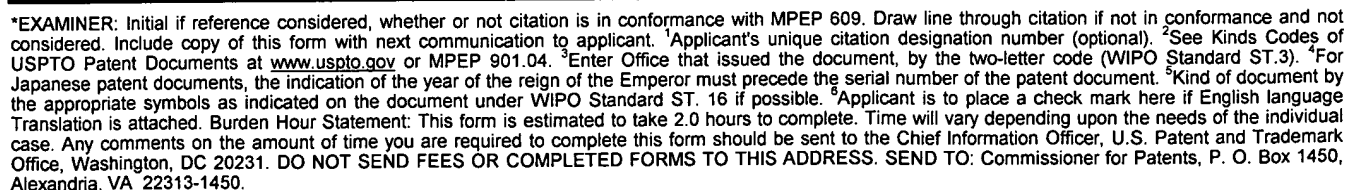
It is believed that no fee is required to make this a complete and timely filing. However, if it is determined that a petition or fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee associated with this statement to our Deposit Account No. 50-0925.

Respectfully submitted,



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NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS			
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		LASSILA et al., "Mechanical Behavior of Tantalum and Tantalum-Tungsten Alloys: Texture Gradients and Macro/Micro-Response," 14 TH U.S. ARMY SYMPOSIUM ON SOLID MECHANICS, November 30, 1996 (14 pgs.)	
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			Examiner Name	Lois L. Zheng	
Sheet	3	of	5	Attorney Docket Number	CPM00029CIP (3600-328-01)

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		CARDONNE et al., "Tantalum and Its Alloys," ADVANCED MATERIALS & PROCESSES, Vol. 142, No. 3, September 1992 (pp. 16-20)	
		POKROSS, "Tantalum," Metals Handbook, 10 th Ed., Vol. 2, Properties and Selection: Nonferrous Alloys and Special-Purpose Materials, 1990 (pp. 571-574)	
		RAMAN et al., "Rapid Consolidation of Tantalum: Non Conventional Microstructure and Resultant Dynamic Mechanical Properties," supplied by the British Library, date unknown (pp. 559-571)	
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		SUZUKI, "Development of Refractory Metals and Silicides Targets, and Their Characteristics," MATERIALS RESEARCH SOCIETY, 1987 (pp. 339-345)	
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		CLARK et al., "Influence of Transverse Rolling on the Microstructural and Texture Development in Pure Tantalum," METALLURGICAL TRANSACTIONS A, Vol. 23A, August 1992 (pp. 2183-2191)	
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